



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

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California Abandoned Mine Lands Forum August 9, 2006 Minutes

Meeting Location:

Eric W. Rood Administrative Center, Empire Room (Second Floor)
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Call In Number: 800-593-7169, **Passcode:** 32068 (*numbers may change each meeting*)

FACILITATION AND MEETING SUMMARY

Facilitator & Minutes: Stephen L. Jenkins & Erika Bennett, Michael Brandman Associates

ATTENDEES

Randy Adams, DTSC
Dennis Amoroso, AMPI
Dan Baden, Shaw Group
Marisha Banister, Friends of Deer Creek
Erika Bennett, Michael Brandman Associates
Jon Blinder, Gold County Land
Jan Carey, Department of Conservation, Abandoned Mine Lands Unit
Sean Dunbar, H&K
Grant Eisen, Nevada County Dept. of Environmental Health
Tom Filler, State Lands Commission
Larry Friend, H&K
Tracy Gidel, Nevada County Dept. of Environmental Health
John Halligan, Department of Conservation, Office of Mine Reclamation
Gabriel Herrera, Nevada County Dept. of Environmental Health
David Huff, Nevada County Dept. of Environmental Health
Rick Humphreys, State Water Resources Control Board
Stephen L. Jenkins, Facilitator - Michael Brandman Associates
Denis Kutch, D.P. Kutch Architect
Scott Leiby, Carlton Engineering
Curtis Lindskog, Shaw Environmental
Jason Muir, H&K
Wesley Nicks, Nevada County DEH
Cy Oggins, Department of Conservation, Abandoned Mine Lands Unit
Greg Pelka, State Lands Commission
Sarah Reeves, Department of Conservation, Abandoned Mine Lands Unit
Greg Reller, Tetra Tech
Phil Woodward, Regional Water Quality Control Board

*The Department of Conservation's mission is to protect Californians and their environment by:
Protecting lives and property from earthquakes and landslides; Ensuring safe mining and oil and gas drilling;
Conserving California's farmland; and Saving energy and resources through recycling.*

Start time: 10:00 a.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Jenkins, from Michael Brandman Associates, started the meeting by introducing himself as the meeting facilitator. Steve welcomed Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Forum attendees and reminded participants to sign in to help update the Forum distribution list.

Steve noted that this was the first Forum meeting held outside Sacramento County, and thanked Tracy Gidel of the Nevada County Department of Environmental Health for hosting this quarter's Forum meeting. Steve also noted that a teleconference line had been set up for this Forum meeting; this was another initial step in meeting a goal to explore options to increase participation in the Forum by those persons outside the immediate Sacramento area, including those in Southern California if possible. Steve then asked for introductions (name and agency/organization).

II. Announcements

Cy Oggins, Manager of the Department of Conservation's Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU), updated the group on the status of the State's pursuit of funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Restoration of Abandoned Mine Sites (RAMS) Program. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives continue to work on the necessary reauthorization language. DOC has been in contact with the offices of Senator Feinstein and Congressman Lewis regarding a California-specific appropriation of \$4.9 million for five agency abandoned mine projects— National Park Service [NPS], U.S. Bureau of Land Management [BLM], U.S. Forest Service [USFS], U.S. Geological Survey [USGS], and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)—and is aware that Senator Feinstein's office has also spoken with staff from the BLM and NPS. While still in a holding pattern, this is the furthest in the process this funding request has gone in the past five years.

Greg Pelka asked whether anyone had heard about some recent fatalities in an abandoned mine adit in El Dorado County. Cy replied that the local news media had reported that two members of road crew, who had entered an abandoned gold mine and were using a generator to pump water to fill a water tanker, were overcome by their pump's gas fumes because of the narrow shaft and inadequate ventilation, and died. A third person trying to help the victims apparently made it out of the mine and was hospitalized. The incident is being investigated and was apparently being considered primarily as an OSHA-related incident rather than as an abandoned mine fatality, but that it still brought home the many dangers associated with abandoned mines. Cy added that the AMLU recently posted new Fact Sheets on its web page (see www.conservation.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_lands/index.htm), including one that lists all known incidents that have occurred at abandoned mines since 1992. The goal is to eventually gather information on all known abandoned mine accidents and have the information available on the website.

III. Agenda Review

Steve reviewed the agenda topics and allotted time set for each item.

IV. Presentation of Nevada County's Program to Identify Abandoned Mine 2000-foot Hazardous Waste Buffer Lands per California Health and Safety Code (CH&SC) Section 25221.

The primary focus of the Forum meeting was a presentation by Tracy Gidel, Nevada Co. Dept. of Environmental Health, addressing the Nevada County abandoned mines review process and program. The following outline provides a brief summary of the presentation outline (Tracy's PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the AML Forum website: www.conservation.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_lands/amlu_forum.htm).

- Part 1 - The issue of hazardous waste and border zone property as covered in CH&SC § 25221 and its relationship to land development in Nevada County.
 - The law and its implementation.
 - Impact to Nevada County.
 - Nevada County's process to address the issue.
- Part 2 - Review: A Map (Mind Manager Diagram) of the issues relating to AMLs.
 - Review impacts and the agencies involved with AMLs.
 - Look at the regulations and protocol involved with AMLs.
 - Consider process presently used to address the issue and look for ways to streamline it.

V.-VI. Continuation After Lunch Break of Working Session with Tracy Gidel and Mind Manager Program to Identify Agency Abandoned Mine Land Processes

The remainder of the meeting included a working session involving further development and identification of the roles and responsibilities of regulatory and other agencies working on abandoned mine land issues. A working draft of the results of this exercise will be available on the AML Forum website at a later date. The purpose of the exercise is to clarify the relationships and common links between agency programs in order to avoid complication and duplication of efforts and enhance agency collaboration.

VII. Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting

No comments or recommended changes to the minutes from the previous Forum meeting were received. Cy Oggins reminded Forum members that meeting minutes will continue to be distributed to the Forum distribution list and posted on the Forum website, and that anyone who wished to suggest corrections or additions to the minutes could do so by email.

VIII. New Business

Marisha Banister, Friends of Deer Creek, offered to provide a presentation at the next Forum meeting on the Champion Complex project. This project is funded through the Brownfields Grant Program. The project encompasses multiple sites that have multiple contaminants.

Curtis Lindskog, Shaw Environmental, also suggested a presentation on a recent mine closure project that Shaw completed in South Dakota. In addition to the overall presentation, Curtis will address the costs and benefits of this project remediation.

Scott Leiby, Carlton Engineering, had a suggestion for a presentation regarding funding sources. He's interested in:

- What funding sources are available and how are they obtained?
- What are the different funding mechanisms for public versus private projects?

He suggested that this could be an add-on to the Deer Creek presentation and discussion.

A question was posed: where do we go from here using Tracy Gidel's Mind Manager exercise? Is there a need to break out into subgroups? Two potential subgroups were proposed.

Group 1. Identify and prioritize abandoned mines that are hazardous and those that are not.

Group 2. Identify issues associated with the mines, whether hazardous or not.

- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Randy Adams and other staff will work with public health issues as part of a working group.
- Regional Water Quality Control Board. Phil Woodward indicated that he is okay with participating on a subgroup.
- AMLU. Sarah Reeves will also participate and will try to find someone from the Department of Fish and Game and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
- Consultants. Greg Keller (TetraTech) and Jason Muir (H&K) also volunteered their time.

Tracy Gidel and Sarah Reeves will coordinate this issue with the potential participants and report back at the next meeting in November. Tracy will follow-up on the feasibility of holding a teleconference among potential subgroup members. Tracy also requested information from the DTSC database regarding public health issues.

IX Action Items

- Marisha to provide a one-page synopsis of Champion Complex project.
- Curtis to provide a one-page synopsis on the South Dakota project to Sarah.
- Tracy to provide Mind Manager outcome regarding the working session, for Cy to post on the AML Forum website.

- Sarah and Tracy to identify the two working groups for 1) mine locations, and 2) issues.
 - Prioritize sites based on groups meeting and then go after funding once identified.
 - Tracy and Sarah share list of identified mines and bring to next meeting and who players are.

X. Future Meeting Schedule and Agenda Ideas

The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2006 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Two possible sites were suggested: BLM and the State Lands Commission's Sacramento Office. Sarah will find out the availability of these sites.

Forum Adjourned – 1:10 p.m.